

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 • 1:15 p.m. • 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Evan J. Vickers, Senate Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, House Chair
Rep. Derrin R. Owens, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Ann Millner
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Rep. Kim F. Coleman
Rep. Brad M. Daw

Rep. Karen Kwan
Rep. Val K. Potter
Rep. Jon E. Stanard
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Rep. Mike Winder

Members Absent:

Rep. Kelly B. Miles

Staff Present:

Mr. Spencer C. Pratt, Fiscal Manager
Ms. Jill L. Curry, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

Senate Chair Vickers called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.

2. Engineering Initiative Report

Mr. Pratt explained the Engineering Initiative Issue Brief.

3-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative

[3-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative](#)

Mr. John Sutherland, Technology Initiative Advisory Board Chair, presented a report regarding the Engineering Initiative

Chair Vickers asked for clarification about the ongoing funding. He also asked about funding for other geographic areas of the state. Mr. Sutherland answered these questions.

Sen. Stevenson asked about using this same initiative process for other programs (such as nursing). Mr. Sutherland answered that this would work for in high growth areas.

Chair Vickers asked some follow-up questions regarding expanding this initiative. Mr. Sutherland answered the question.

Sen. Henderson asked for more specific details about the results of the initiative and the status of the goals. Mr. Sutherland answered her questions.

Chair Vickers asked about the tools being used to evaluate the program. Mr. Sutherland reported on these tools.

3. UESP Presentation

Ms. Lynne Ward, Executive Director, Utah Educational Savings Plan explained the UESP program.

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

July 26, 2017

Page 2

Chair Vickers asked about a specific contribution from a local bank. Ms. Ward answered that US Bank contributed money as part of the 20-year celebration.

Sen. Henderson asked about the age limit for someone to open an account. Ms. Ward answered that there is no age limit.

Sen. Dabakis praised Ms. Ward for her great work and the value of this program. He expressed concern about giving tax incentives for wealthier Utahns. Ms. Ward stated that the lost tax revenue is about \$3 million. She gave additional perspective on this issue.

Sen. Millner expressed appreciation to Ms. Ward. She asked about the possibility to build more partnerships with other banks. Ms. Ward discussed some current programs.

Sen. Stephenson asked for more clarification about programs for low income families. Ms. Ward answered this question.

Sen. Dabakis mentioned that the state is giving the money to the people who are at a higher economic level.

MOTION: House Vice Chair Owens moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2017. The motion passed with a vote of 14-0-3.

Yeas-14

Rep. K. Coleman
Sen. J. Dabakis
Rep. B. Daw
Sen. D. Henderson
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. V. Potter
Rep. J. Stanard
Sen. H. Stephenson
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. M. Wheatley
Rep. M. Winder

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. K. Grover
Rep. K. Miles
Sen. J. Stevenson

4. Student Athlete funding plans (FY 2018 funding)

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

July 26, 2017

Page 3

Dr. David L. Buhler, Commissioner of Higher Education discussed the student athlete graduation improvement funding.

5-Student Athlete Graduation Improvement Funding - July 26, 2017

[5-Student Athlete Graduation Improvement Funding - July 26, 2017](#)

5. Strategic Workforce Investments (SWI) additional allocation recommendations (\$764,000 still available for FY 2018)

Mr. Pratt explained the Strategic Workforce Investment Initiative Issue Brief.

6-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - Strategic Workforce Investment

[6-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - Strategic Workforce Investment](#)

Chair Vickers reminded committee members that this was part of legislation brought forward by Sen. Millner. Sen. Millner discussed the status of this initiative.

Mr. Val Hale, Executive Director of Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) explained their role in this initiative.

Ms. Kimberlee Carlile, Director Industry and Talent Initiatives GOED, discussed the five programs that did receive funding.

Sen. Millner commented on this presentation and thought this might be a model that could work for the nursing program. Chair Vickers asked committee members to think about the different approaches.

Sen. Stephenson doesn't feel that these initiatives are meeting the current needs for silicon slopes and other high tech industries. He would like the committee to look at the current higher education appropriations and focus on high-demand and growth areas.

Rep. Stanard discussed different models that are being used. He discussed the importance of funding other high-growth programs.

Sen. Dabakis expressed concern about the current push to match higher education with current job demands. He discussed the need for a more rounded education.

6. 3:00 p.m. Budget Deep-dive: USU - Brigham City

Mr. Pratt explained the Budget Deep Dive for the Brigham City Campus of Utah State University.

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

July 26, 2017

Page 4

7-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - Deep Dive: Utah State University - Brigham City Campus

[7-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - Deep Dive: Utah State University - Brigham City Campus](#)

Mr. Pratt explained the funding mix and expenditures. He discussed other statistics regarding the USU Brigham City campus.

Chair Vickers asked for some clarification regarding the funding involved at the Brigham City Campus. Dr. Wagner and Dr. Lee addressed these questions.

Rep. Potter asked if they have tracked how many students stay in Box Elder County. Dr. Lee answered that Box Elder County has 40 percent of their workforce who work outside the county.

MOTION: Sen. Dabakis moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 10-1-6.

Yeas-10

Sen. J. Dabakis
Rep. B. Daw
Rep. K. Grover
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. V. Potter
Rep. J. Stanard
Sen. H. Stephenson
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. M. Winder

Nays-1

Rep. K. Coleman

Absent-6

Sen. D. Henderson
Rep. K. Miles
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. D. Owens
Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. M. Wheatley

Senate Chair Vickers adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.